

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-05
SP-02 DODE-00 INR-10 INRE-00 CIAE-00 EB-08 ACDA-12
AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03 MCE-00 /073 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM

APPROVED BY NEA:NVELIOTES

NEA/RA:HPRECHT(SUBS)

H:BATWOOD (SUBS)

T:LBROWN(SUBS)

NSC:LDENNEND(SUBS)

-----080641 191433Z /72

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 100000

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, EC, SA, IS, US

SUBJECT: TIMING OF SUBMITTING MIDDLE EAST AIRCRAFT PACKAGE

REF: STATE 077884

1. ADMINISTRATION HAS INFORMED CONGRESS IT INTENDS TO SUBMIT MIDDLE EAST AIRCRAFT PACKAGE FOR REVIEW APRIL 26 AND YOU MAY SO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. FYI: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER NOTIFYING CONGRESS:

QUOTE:

YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE PRESIDENT ADVISED THE COMMITTEE THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT THE FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS ON THE SECRET

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PROPOSED MIDDLE EAST AIRCRAFT SALES AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE DEBATE ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY. THE VOTE ON THAT TREATY HAS NOW BEEN SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 18. WHILE THERE ARE COMPELLING POLICY REASONS TO SUBMIT THE NOTIFICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE ARE AWARE THAT YOUR SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO GAIN SENATE APPROVAL OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A BACKLOG OF COMMITTEE WORK.

IN AN EFFORT TO CONTINUE OUR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON THIS PROPOSAL, WE WILL WITHHOLD SUBMISSION OF THE NOTIFICATIONS ON THE AIRCRAFT PROPOSALS UNTIL APRIL 26.

AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE TRIED TO HOLD STRICTLY TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE 30-DAY PERIOD WITHIN WHICH THESE CONTROVERSIAL CASES ARE CONSIDERED SHOULD NOT COINCIDE WITH A RECESS PERIOD. THEREFORE, I AM SURE YOU SHARE MY VIEW THAT WE SHOULD NOT DELAY SUBMISSION OF THE FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS TO THE POINT WHERE THE PERIOD FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION WOULD RUN INTO THE CONGRESS'S MEMORIAL DAY RECESS STARTING ON MAY 27. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT APRIL 26 IS THE OPTIMUM DATE FOR THIS SUBMISSION FOR BOTH PROCEDURAL AND FOREIGN POLICY REASONS.

I WILL BE LEAVING TOMORROW FOR AN EXTENDED TRIP TO AFRICA AND THE SOVIET UNION AND IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CONSULT FORMALLY WITH THE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO APRIL 26. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF TIMING ON AN INFORMAL BASIS BOTH AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND IN MY MEETING WITH YOU AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS LAST EVENING. I UNDERSTAND THAT OUR WILLINGNESS TO WITHHOLD THE SUBMISSION UNTIL APRIL 26 WILL SATISFY THE ALTOGETHER LEGITIMATE CONCERNS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE COMMITTEE'S WORKLOAD. SINCE IT IS POSSIBLE
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THAT I WILL NOT RETURN TO THE COUNTRY UNTIL APRIL 28, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT MY SUGGESTION THAT I SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO CONSULT WITH THE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE SUBMISSION OF THE FORMAL NOTIFICATION. IF I AM ABLE TO RETURN PRIOR TO APRIL 26, I WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH THE COMMITTEE AT THAT TIME.

WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD FULLY THE DESIRE OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE ISSUES RAISED BY THIS IMPORTANT PROPOSAL. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE HAVE ASSURED THAT CONGRESS WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN 50 DAYS NORMALLY PROVIDED FOR ARMS SALES PROPOSALS.

SINCE THE FEBRUARY 14 ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR INTENTION TO PROPOSE THESE SALES TO ISRAEL, EGYPT, AND SAUDI ARABIA, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SOUGHT TO PROVIDE YOUR COMMITTEE WITH ALL THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO ASSESS THIS PROPOSAL. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED DETAILED INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE AND TO OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT YOUR COMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED VIRTUALLY ALL THE INFORMATION

PROVIDED TO POLICY MAKERS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.
I AM, OF COURSE, PREPARED TO JOIN OTHER ADMINISTRATION
WITNESSES IN PRESENTING TESTIMONY TO YOUR COMMITTEE UPON
REQUEST.

SINCERELY, CY VANCE. UNQUOTE. LETTER ADDRESSED TO:

THE HONORABLE JOHN SPARKMAN, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS, UNITED STATES SENATE. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: JJWTWINAM
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: MASS, PGOV, EC, SA, IS, US
To: CAIRO JIDDA MULTIPLE
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